NEBRASKA
WEATHER & CROPS

NASS NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For Week Ending May 11, 1997

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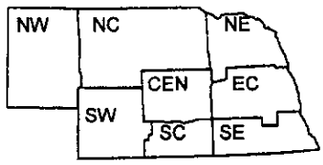
National Agricultural Statistics Service
U.S Department of Agriculture
and U S Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admn
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Agriculture
and Natural Resources--UN-L

WEATHER

The week was relatively pleasant and dry. Temperatures averaged near normals within a few degrees across the State. Precipitation averaged from traces to near four tenths of an inch across the State.

GENERAL

Fieldwork activities were in full swing last week with corn producers making excellent planting progress, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Rainfall in the eastern third of the State aided germination but slowed plantings in a few areas. Producer activities included spring tillage, fertilizer application, limited soybean and sorghum planting, and working and moving cattle to summer pastures.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition declined from the previous week and rated 1% very poor, 7% poor, 38% fair, 47% good and 7% excellent. Best crop conditions were reported in the south central and central portions of Nebraska. By Sunday, 44% of the crop had jointed compared to 37% last year and 65% for the five-year average. Precipitation continued to be needed in parts of the southwest and Panhandle.

Corn planting advanced to 70% complete as of Sunday. This is behind last year's 74% progress but ahead of the five-year average of 55%. Planting activities were in f swing statewide except where slowed by rainfall or too c conditions In the southwest, where irrigation systems we operating to germinate and sustain planted corn, some drylan producers were waiting for moisture before finishing planting operations.

CROPS (Cont.)

Soybean and sorghum planting activities had an excellent start in the central and south central districts. Soil temperatures remained slightly cool for planting these crops. Soybean planting, as of Sunday, totaled 5% of the intended acreage. This was behind last year at 6% and the five-year average of 8%. Sorghum planting, as of Sunday, also reached 5% complete compared with 5% last year and the average.

Oats seeding was virtually complete by weeks end. As of Sunday, 73% of the crop had emerged, compared to 89% last year.

Alfalfa condition declined from the previous week and rated 5%very poor, 10% poor, 37% fair, 41% good and 7% excellent. Reports indicate that some fields were being worked up, due to winterkill, for row crop or new alfalfa seedings. Producers who irrigate alfalfa and are in moisture deficit areas were putting water on the crop.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition dropped slightly from the previous week and rated 2% very poor, 5% poor, 31% fair, 56% good, and 6% excellent. Pasture growth continued slow but improved where moisture was received and temperatures warmer. Calves were being worked and cattle were being l to summer pastures. Movement to pastures was ing necessary due to stalk fields being needed for ing, dry lots being exceedingly muddy, and short hay pplies. In some cases, supplemental feeding of hay remained necessary.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF MAY 11, 1997	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER-AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Planted	72	60	46	86	68	76	86	79	70	30	74	55
% Corn Emerged	1	3	1	10	4	5	13	10	6	n/a	9	12
% Wheat Jointed	15	18	4	49	20	54	69	87	44	17	37	65
% Sorghum Planted	0	1	0	27	5	3	11	1	5	n/a	5	5
% Soybean Planted	0	4	1	24	3	7	19	8	5	n/a	6	8
% Oats Sown	95	100	98	85	100	100	100	100	98	87	100	96
% Oats Emerged	82	71	60	72	82	97	78	99	73	43	89	n/a
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF MAY 9, 1997												
Days suitable	6 4	6.1	5.0	6.0	5.6	6 6	6.4	3.5	5 7	3.5	3.2	
Topsoil moisture - Very Short	4	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	2	
(Percent) - Short	50	11	1	2	7	54	19	0	16	8	10	
- Adequate	46	82	96	95	87	43	80	95	79	72	72	
- Surplus	0	6	3	3	6	0	1	5	4	20	16	
Subsoil moisture - Very Short	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
(Percent) - Short	24	11	1	7	3	39	11	3	11	9	30	
- Adequate	74	83	94	86	94	61	89	97	86	82	63	
- Surplus	0	6	5	7	3	0	0	0	3	9	3	

n/a = not available

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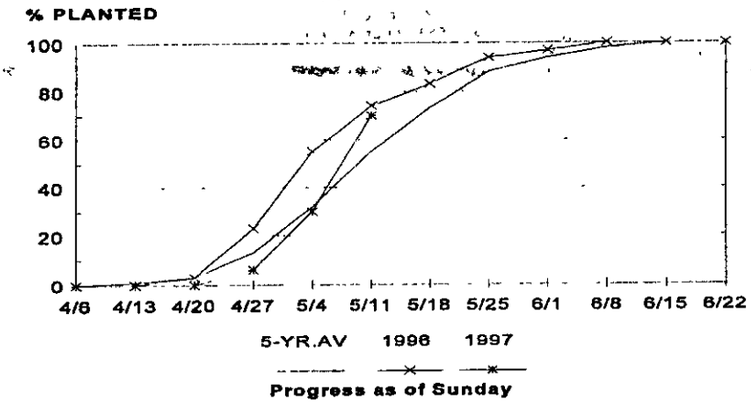
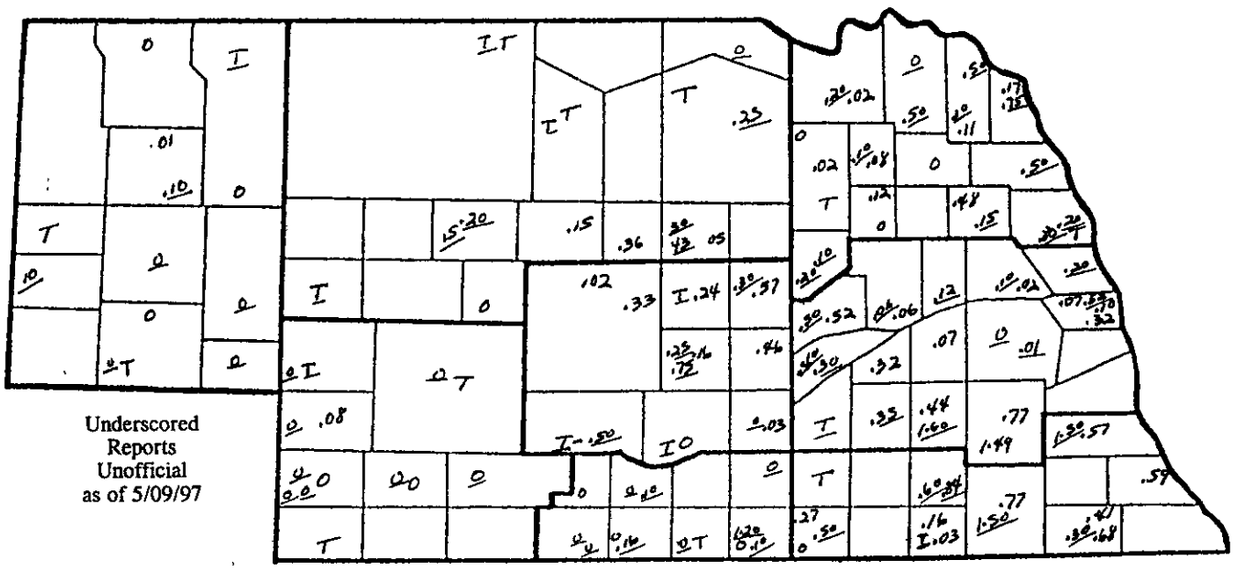
CORN PLANTED



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1996



PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - MAY 10, 1997

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	01	.08	08	.23	.38	.01	.01	.42
Total since April 1	2.34	3.26	3.37	2.82	3.80	1.04	2.25	4.57
Normal since April 1	2.77	3 22	3.66	3 59	4.04	2.90	3.32	4 07
Total as % of normal	84%	101%	92%	79%	94%	36%	68%	112%

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1997

	Station	Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches	Last Week	Current	Normal
		Max	Min						
NW	Chadron	84	27	57	---	0	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	84	28	56	+3	T	115	210	189
	Sidney	81	23	55	---	T	115	205	191
NC	Valentine	85	25	57	+3	T	---	---	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	---	104	197	210
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	---	95	179	223
NE	Norfolk	84	34	58	0	.12	---	---	---
	Sioux City	86	31	56	-3	17	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	94	170	226
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	86	170	224
	West Point	---	---	---	---	---	101	185	235
CEN	Grand Island	82	34	60	+2	.03	114	207	236
	Ord	83	30	60	---	24	103	194	230
	Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	127	225	235
EC	Lincoln	85	31	59	0	.77	121	213	247
	Omaha	85	37	60	+2	10	---	---	---
	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	116	210	234
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	116	210	242
SW	Imperial	88	29	59	---	0	---	---	---
	North Platte	82	25	57	+2	T	134	233	218
	McCook	---	---	---	---	---	154	262	227
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	132	230	236
	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	132	228	236
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	125	216	247
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	121	217	236

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is: Max. temp. + min. temp. divided by 2 minus 50 = GDD. For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the GDD = 20 for that day. GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15.

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.